

Application No. 09/941,151
Amendment dated October 18, 2004
Pending Appeal

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-48 (canceled)

49.(currently amended) A method of providing a custom orthodontic appliance for repositioning teeth of a patient comprising:

- communicating, from an orthodontic practitioner, three-dimensional information from the mouth of a patient of the shapes of the teeth of the patient;
- displaying, on a computer display for inspection by a person viewing the display, images of the teeth of the patient in suggested tooth positions and orientations that are based on the three-dimensional information;
- communicating, from ~~[[a]]~~ the person viewing the display, feedback information regarding the suggested tooth positions and orientations toward which the teeth of the patient are to be moved by orthodontic treatment;
- providing a custom ~~design~~ of orthodontic appliance that is configured to urge the teeth of the patient, when installed thereon, toward tooth positions and orientations and that has been manufactured based on the suggested tooth positions and orientations in accordance with the feedback information.

50.(currently amended) The method of claim 49 wherein:

- the person viewing the display is an orthodontic practitioner; and
- the feedback information includes information selected from the group consisting essentially of information of changes to the suggested tooth positions and ~~[[or]]~~ orientations, and information approving tooth positions and orientations toward which the teeth of the patient are to be moved by the appliance.

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51.(previously presented) The method of claim 50 further comprising:
providing the person viewing the display with a computer interface and displaying the
images thereon;
providing the computer interface with a capability for the entry by the person viewing the
display of the feedback information.

52.(currently amended) The method of claim 49 wherein:
the feedback information includes information of changes to the suggested tooth positions
[[or]] and orientations;
the method further comprises redisplaying images of the teeth in tooth positions and
orientations revised in accordance with the feedback information for inspection by the person
viewing the display.

53.(previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein:
the three-dimensional information is derived at least in part from an impression of the
teeth of the patient from the orthodontic practitioner; and
the displaying of the images of the teeth of the patient is in response to data digitized from
a model of the teeth made from the impression.

54.(previously presented) The method of claim 49 further comprising:
communicating the three-dimensional information to a remote computing facility for the
derivation of the suggested tooth positions and orientations from the three-
dimensional information; and
displaying digital images of the teeth of the patient in the suggested tooth positions and
orientations on the computer display.

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55.(previously presented) The method of claim 49 further comprising:
communicating the three-dimensional information to a remote computing facility for the
derivation of the suggested tooth positions and orientations from the three-
dimensional information; and
displaying digital images of the teeth of the patient in the suggested tooth positions and
orientations on the computer display;
communicating, to an orthodontic appliance manufacturing facility having equipment
thereat for manufacturing the custom orthodontic appliance, data that includes
three-dimensional information of the shapes of the teeth of the patient and
information regarding tooth positions and orientations toward which the teeth of
the patient are to be moved by orthodontic treatment; and
receiving from the orthodontic appliance manufacturing facility the custom orthodontic
appliance for providing the appliance to the orthodontic practitioner for the
treatment of the patient.

56.(previously presented) The method of claim 49 further comprising:
communicating, to a remote orthodontic appliance manufacturing facility having
equipment thereat for manufacturing the custom orthodontic appliance, data that
includes three-dimensional information of the shapes of the teeth of the patient
and information regarding tooth positions and orientations toward which the teeth
of the patient are to be moved by orthodontic treatment; and
receiving from the remote orthodontic appliance manufacturing facility the custom
orthodontic appliance for providing the appliance to the orthodontic practitioner
for the treatment of the patient.

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57.(currently amended) The method of claim 49 wherein:
the feedback information includes information selected from the group consisting
essentially of information of changes to the suggested tooth positions ~~[[or]]~~ and
orientations, and information approving tooth positions and orientations toward
which the teeth of the patient are to be moved by the appliance;
the method further comprises:
providing the person viewing the display with a capability for entering feedback
information in the form of change data from an orthodontic practitioner
into a computer indicating selected changes in the suggested tooth
positions and orientations;
displaying on the computer images of the teeth in revised tooth positions and
orientations in response to the feedback information.

58.(previously presented) The method of claim 57 further comprising:
establishing a digital communications link between a computer terminal and a digital
computer at a remote location;
transferring the three-dimensional information in digital form to the remote location;
deriving with the digital computer at the remote location the suggested tooth positions and
orientations;
communicating digital data of the suggested tooth positions and orientations from the
remote location to the computer display;
communicating change data from the computer display to the computer at the remote
location;
calculating the revised tooth positions and orientations with the digital computer at the
remote location in response to the change data;
communicating digital data of the revised tooth positions and orientations from the
remote location to the computer display.

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59.(currently amended) The method of claim 58 further comprising:
entering commands accepting tooth positions and orientations at the computer display;
communicating entered commands accepting tooth positions and orientations to the
remote location; and
processing [[the]] data of the accepted revised tooth positions and orientations and of the
three-dimensional information and designing of the custom orthodontic appliance
with the digital computer at the remote location.

60.(previously presented) The method of claim 59 further comprising:
transmitting data of the designed custom orthodontic appliance from the remote location;
displaying images of the designed custom orthodontic appliance on the computer display
in response to the transmitted data;
transmitting appliance modification data to the computer at the remote location and
redesigning the appliance with the digital computer at the remote location in
response to the transmitted appliance modification data.

61.(previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein:
the custom orthodontic appliance includes positioning jigs having surfaces thereon
that conform to the shapes of the teeth of the patient.

62.(currently amended) The method of claim 49 wherein:
the custom orthodontic appliance includes positioning jigs having surfaces thereon
that conform to the shapes of the teeth of the patient; and
the method further comprises:
locating the jigs jig on the patient with said surfaces surface conforming to
the shape of the ~~one or more~~ teeth,
positioning the appliance on the ~~one or more~~ teeth with the jigs jig, and
bonding the appliance so positioned to the tooth.

Claims 63-83 (canceled)

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84.(previously presented) The method of claim 52 wherein:
the feedback information includes information from an orthodontic practitioner
approving the revised tooth positions and orientations as those toward which the teeth of the
patient are to be moved by the appliance.

Claims 85-110 (canceled)